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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev

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2. "Khrushchev's name has long been known to the Soviet people but it has never enjoyed popularity. There is nothing imposing about Khrushchev. His cheap joviality, his manner of addressing all those below him in rank with the familiar 'thou,' a certain hastiness in his speech and movements -- all this somehow reminds one of that type of shrewd old-time contractor who knew how to actuate workmen while bowing to the patron.
 3. "Khrushchev is far from being an intellectual. He is a cunning schemer and a narrow-minded Party practitioner with a flair and a good power of observation. Like most of the men surrounding Malenkov, Khrushchev is not an 'old' Bolshevik.
 4. "He joined the Party in 1917 during the years of the disintegration of the Czarist Army. Being a demagogue by nature, his influence on the masses of the soldiers was very strong. This made him advance to membership in the Army Committee and gave him the taste for power.
 5. "Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev is a proletarian by birth. He was born in the village 'Kalinovka,' government of Kursk, on 17 Apr 94. His father was a miner in the Don Basin.
- "Khrushchev has little education and the lack of high school education is showing. He moved straight from elementary school to the 'Prom-Academy' Technical college. But here too, instead of sitting on the students' bench together with the other Red directors, he spent most of his time in his offices as a secretary of the 'Prom-Academy' party organization. This greatly helped him to graduate from 'Prom-Academy' and to call himself 'engineer' henceforward.

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7. "Like all dilettante, Khrushtshev has plenty of aplomb. He will advise you with the mein of a connoisseur on the culture of sugar beets in the Ukraine, the underwater works of a bridge construction in Moscow or the new party statutes at the party congress.
8. "During the Stakhanovite conferences and consultations this short, round-faced, flaxen-haired man knew better than anybody else how to 'wash the brains' and 'fix the lines.' Here he is in his element. He is a propagandist, agitator, Party administrator, but on no account a theoretician. After Stalin had tried his hand at 'correcting' Marx, Khrushtshev even kicked at him [Stalin] by stating 'some comrades are picking out citations from Marx instead of devoting their time to practical work'
9. "In 1934, Kaganovich, then first secretary of the Moscow Party organization, sponsored him [Khrushtshev] for the job of the second secretary. One year later he succeeded to the position of his chief and sponsor and survived the 'Yeshov purge.'
10. "In 1938 he was transferred to the Ukraine as secretary of the KP(b)U. In 1939 Stalin made him a member of the Politburo leaving him, however, on his job in the Ukraine. The war [World War II] found Khrushtshev working with Malenkov in the War Council, without any spectacular success, however. For instance, on 14 Sep 41 Khrushtshev was sent to Kiev where he delivered a speech before the Plenary Assembly of the Regional Party Committee and told about the stocks of food, about the ammunition available in Kiev -- all this to entice the Assembly to fight to the last cartridge for the freedom of the city which was already surrounded by enemy forces. Four days after his speech Kiev was surrendered with hardly even one shot.
11. "In 1949 Stalin nominated him secretary of the Party's Central Committee and at the same time he was heading the Moscow 'Goskom' City Committee. During the XIX Party Congress he had to read an exposé on the amendments to the Party statutes and the reorganization of the entire Party machine.
12. "Upon accession to power, Malenkov freed himself of the duties of secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and named Khrushtshev his successor. Khrushtshev is the only one of five secretaries to be a member of the Party's Central Committee. However, it would be a mistake to assume that Malenkov has weakened his position in the Party Presidium by quitting the Secretariat.
13. "The leadership of the Party is not in the hands of the Secretariat but in those of the Presidium of the Central Committee, where Malenkov's position is unshakeable. According to the Statutes, the Secretariat's main task is the mustering and replenishing of the staffs. Nobody but Malenkov's 'alter ego' Khrushtshev is better suited to accomplish this task to the best of Malenkov's interest."

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